The church of the Gesù in Rome was also a commission from the Cardinal Alessandro Farnese; the foundations were laid in 1568, but the works were only carried up to the height of the cornice by Vignola. The building was completed under the direction of Giacomo della Porta.

The great ducal palace at Piacenza was designed by Vignola, but completed by his son Giacinto. A chapel in the church of San Francesco in Perugia, the Capella Ricci in Santa Caterina de' Funari at Rome, the church of Santa Anna dei Palafrenieri, the Oratorio di San Marcello, and the tomb of the Cardinal Ranuccio Farnese in San Giovanni Laterano, were among the works of Vignola about this period; and he was also employed upon several public and private edifices in various parts of Italy, among which were the Chiesa della Terra di Manzano, that of St. Oreste (Mount Soracte), and Santa Maria degli Angeli at Assisi.

The foundations of the palace of the Escurial were laid in 1563, when the Baron Martirano being at the court of Philip the Second, and being much esteemed by that monarch as of acknowledged taste in the arts, he was consulted in respect of this important building, and commissioned to return to Italy to advise with the most celebrated architects of the day, —Galeazzo Alessi at Genoa, Pelegrini Tibaldi at Milan, Palladio at Venice, and the Academy of Design at Florence. The Grand Duke Cosmo di Medici also ordered a design to be made by Vicenzio Danti. No less than twenty-two designs from different architects were collected on this occasion, but it is stated that none were so well received by the King of Spain and Martirano as that by Vignola, who, having had all the designs sent to him for his inspection and judgment, selected the best parts of each, and thus dressed up a description of Olla Podrida design for his most Catholic Majesty. This at first sight does not appear to have been a very creditable proceeding on the part of our architect, but at this distance of time it would hardly be just to venture a censure without having all the circumstances of the case before us; and as the character of Vignola for honour and integrity has never been impeached, it is only fair to presume that he did nothing unworthy of it in this transaction. Philip invited Vignola to proceed to Spain to superintend the execution of his design, but finding himself advancing in years, and being much occupied with his professional duties (more particularly with those pertaining to St. Peter's), he prudently declined the royal invitation, and determined upon continuing in his favourite Rome. The Escurial, according to Milizia, was afterwards erected by Giovanni Battista of Toledo.

In the year 1573 Vignola was invited by Pope Gregory XIII. to proceed to the city of Castello to examine into a disputed question of boundary between the Tuscan and Papal States, and although suffering greatly from indisposition at the time, he obeyed the Pope's commands, and fulfilled his commission with care and great judgment. Upon recovering his health he immediately returned to Rome, and sought audience of the Pope to render him an account of the successful performance of his commission: he remained an hour discoursing with his Holiness upon the subject, and upon the state of the progress of several buildings from his designs, and received permission to proceed on the following day to Caprarola; but during the night he was attacked with fever, which terminated in his death after six days' continuance.

Vignola died on the 7th July, 1573, at the age of 66: he had requested to be buried in a private manner, but his son Giacinto was obliged to concede to the wish of his friends and admirers, and he was interred with great pomp in the Pantheon, all the members of the academy of St. Luke attending the ceremony!

Ignazio Danti (to whom we are indebted for a memoir of the life of Barozzi) makes most honourable mention of his noble and generous disposition. His constant desire was not to be burdened with the cares of superfluity, or the miseries of want; his numerous charities prevented the former, and his talents and the extensive patronage he enjoyed rendered him exempt from the latter. His life was most virtuous; his love of truth proverbial; his manner cheerful and engaging; his accomplishments refined; he died poor, leaving no other inheritance to his son Hyacinth (observes Quatremere de Quincy) "than the example of his virtues and the reputation of his name!"

Milizia states that Giacomo della Porta studied under Vignola, and Bonnani styles him as "discipulus ejus:" he succeeded him as architect to St. Peter's, and also designed and executed the several churches and other important works in Rome.

I regret that I am unable to give the date when Vignola produced his celebrated Treatise upon Architecture. Daviler and Milizia both state that it was towards the latter end of his life, and this is in some measure confirmed by Vignola himself, who, in the following passage from his modest and unpretending preface, says, "that having for many years practised as an architect in various parts, having studied the writings of several authors upon architecture, and having compared them together and with the works of antiquity then still remaining, he was desirous of establishing a rule upon which he might rely with security, and which might, upon the whole, or in part, please the judicious."

Of a treatise so well known to architects it will be unnecessary for me to offer any description, it being sufficient to observe that its merits have now been tested for more than three centuries; that of the parallels which have been made of the orders with those of such powerful rivals as Serlio, Scammuzzi, and Palladio, I think the balance will be found in Vignola's favour, notwithstanding the opinion of so great a critic as Milizia, who places the great architects of the sixteenth century in the following gradation.

"For knowledge and exquisite taste possessed by each in architecture, it appears that the first place would belong to Palladio! on his right hand would be Vignola, Buonarotti, Sansovino, and Vasari, and on the other Peruzzi, San Michele, Giulio Romano and Serlio."

Vignola's Treatise upon Perspective was not published till after his death: his son Giacinto placed it in the hands of Ignazio Danti, a Dominican friar and mathematician of Bologna. Danti has well fulfilled his task of compilation, and has produced a work upon a subject which was more carefully studied by the old Italian architects than by their successors. Both Vitruvius and Peruzzi, as well as Vignola, recommended its study as one of the means towards arriving at perfection in the art. The words of Vignola are "La scienza della prospettiva gli aveva aperto l'ingegno per l'arte di fabbricare," and I would here venture a remark to students upon the great importance of a sound knowledge of perspective for the proper study and practice of their profession. It would not be difficult to point out in several important buildings instances of failure of architectural effect, arising from the designs having been merely studied geometrically.*

SAMUEL ANGELL.

* To be continued.

THE MEDAL DRAWINGS AT THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

HAVING seen the designs submitted to the Institute in competition for the Soane Medallion, we are disposed to regret, with some who have addressed us on the subject, that the council should have treated them so stringently.

The set marked "Faith, Hope, and Charity," selected by them as nearest approaching the standard to which they conceive the Institute should refer the designs submitted on this occasion, are drawn to a smaller scale than that prescribed in the printed instructions, and the drawings are coloured, instead of being tinted in sepia or India ink.

Insisting, as we ever do, on the necessity of committees judging designs submitted to them with strict reference to the instructions given, we are compelled to regard this design as out of the pale.

There are, however, two other sets, apparently submitted by one hand, the first marked *Veteres Laudabamus Solum*, and the other *Quid Roma Faciem*, which seem to us to deserve more consideration than they have received. They are evidently by one who has well studied the works of Wren. Without displaying much inventive genius, they show skill in re-combination, and some knowledge of construction, considerable artistic power, and such an amount of industry as is itself deserving of reward.

We venture to express a hope that the council, having eased their conscience by setting forth their views as to the degree of merit that ought to be shown to entitle a competitor to the medal (and to which we do not wish to offer dissent), the general body will, at the meeting on Monday next, empower the council to present the medallion to the author of the two designs we have referred to.

ST. MARTIN'S MUSIC HALL.

A PORTION of Mr. Hullah's new Music Hall was opened to the public on Monday night last. The plot of ground on which it is erected consists of a parallelogram of 149 feet in length and 61 feet in width, the north side abutting on Wilson-street (leading from Endell-street to Drury-lane), and the east side on Charles-street (Long Acre); this plot being connected, at the south-west corner, with Long Acre, by another, 44 feet in length and 22 feet in width.

When completed, the concert-hall will be 121 feet long, 55 feet wide, and 40 feet high: the length being rather more than double the width, and the height a third of the length. It is to afford accommodation for 3,000 persons. At the west end of the hall will be two anterooms, entered by two staircases; the one leading from Long Acre, the other from Wilson-street. A third entrance, at the east end, will be connected with a staircase leading from Charles-street. On the north and south sides, and at the west end of the hall, will be erected galleries.

The part completed is next Charles-street, with a temporary entrance through No. 99, Long-acre. It is 87 feet long, 55 feet wide, and 40 feet high to the boarded ceiling, or inner roof, which is flat in the centre and sloped at the sides: it has arched ribs next the walls with ornamented spandrells, and is divided into panels by moulded ribs. The walls are perfectly plain, and the windows on either side, by which it is lighted, are too much like those of a factory; still the dimensions of the apartment and the construction of the roof give it a certain air of nobleness which will compensate for some defects. The hall is lighted at night by suspended gas chandeliers.

On the ground floor there will be a lecture-room, 51 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 26 feet high, calculated to accommodate 500 persons, besides class-rooms.

We must mention that the principal feature of the concert with which the new hall was opened was a festival anthem, composed by Mr. Henry Leslie, son of Mr. John Leslie, one of the late Commission of Sewers, and inventor of several improvements in lighting and ventilation. The anthem is a masterly composition, indicating the possession of powers of very high order,—and suffices, with other works previously submitted to public ordeal, to place Mr. Leslie in the foremost rank of those on whom the reputation which England has to achieve in musical science depends.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES, ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.—On Friday in last week a meeting was held in the vestry-room of this parish, to receive the report of the Commissioners of Baths and Washhouses: the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie in the chair.—From the report it appeared that for the year ending 23rd January last, the number of baths made use of was 196,310, and the money received 2,945*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* Increased demands on the wells in Trafalgar-square had checked the supply of water and of baths. The commissioners estimated the income from baths for the current year at 3,500*l.*, and from the laundries at 500*l.* The annual charges were estimated at 2,000*l.*, and the repayment of loan and interest at 5 per cent., at 2,030*l.* The engineer's report gave a detailed statement of an expenditure of 16,775*l.* The report was agreed to. It was then resolved, "That the vestry sanction the borrowing, on mortgage of the poor-rates, an additional sum not exceeding 5,000*l.*, in order to carry out the Act 9th and 10th Victoria, cap. 74."

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